UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

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7	MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES
	Anderson, George L., The Widening Stream (Atchison, Kan., The Lockwood
	Co., 1968), pp. 24, 26, 43, 58. "Articles of Agreement and Lease" between Mrs. W. W. (Lillie) Hether-
	ington and B. P. Blanchard, June 1, 1894, providing for Blanchard's
	leasing of the Hetherington home. (Manuscript Division, Kansas
	State Historical Society)
	Atchison Daily Champion, April 16, 1880, Jan. 2, 1881.

Atchison Daily Globe, July 16, 1894.
"Atchison Homes on Display," Topeka Capital, May 11, 1965.

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The W. W. Hetherington house at 805 North 5th street in Atchison was built in 1879-1880 at a reported cost of \$6,500. Plans for the ten-room structure were drawn by architect Alfred Meier, and John Peterson was the contractor.

The Hetherington name is one of the oldest and most important associated with Atchison's economic development. Webster Wirt Hetherington's father, William, founded the Exchange National Bank in 1859, two years before Kansas became a state. Webster was nine years old at the time. After later attending Gambier College in Ohio, he joined his father's bank as a clerk in 1871. Five years later he became a partner in the bank and also the cashier. Upon his father's death in 1890 he became president of the bank. During his long years of association with the bank, he undertook a number of business ventures which proved extremely successful and earned him a national reputation as a skilled financier. According to one account, the younger Hetherington was given such names as "Bonanza King" and "Duke of Kansas" because of his wealth. His brilliant career was ended by his death in 1892 at the

The ownership of the house remained with the Hetherington family and was the residence of his widow until her death in 1937 and later of his son Wirt until his death in 1962. The house is still in use as a private residence.

The W. W. Hetherington house has long been a community landmark. The family of Webster Hetherington established a tradition of placing a lighted candle in every window of the large home on Christmas Eve, a custom observed by the house's occupants for almost 75 years.

W. W. Hetherington because of his position with the Exchange National Bank had a significant part in the economic boom of Atchison in the 1880's. His large brick home has been a local landmark since 1880 and additionally is a fine example of Romanesque-influenced architecture as adapted to a Kansas residence.

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The W. W. Hetherington house is an irregularly shaped, ten-room, three-story structure with a basement located in one of Atchison's older residential neighborhoods. The house faces east and at the northeast corner features a circular tower which extends above the roof line. An octagonal tower situated on the south side matches the circular tower in height.

The red brick exterior walls are trimmed with detailed carved limestone and have been painted white. The circular tower has ornately trimmed limestone belt courses at the floor lines and three rectangular terra cotta panels between the second and third floors. The top of the tower supports a very detailed cornice with extensions projecting upward, causing it to resemble a castle tower. The north elevation has an extended carriage entry porch with intricately detailed woodwork. There is also a two-story carriage house situated northwest of the main house.

The slate-covered mansard roof has a variety of styles of dormers. A cornice separates the flat roof top from the mansard. The brick walls are separated from the roof by a simple limestone cornice. The roof of the carriage entry is gabled with small dormers in the cornice trim.

Windows on all floors are tall, thin rectangles trimmed in limestone. Some dormer windows have arched heads and the third story windows of the tower are arched, but the rest are rectangular.

The house has five fireplaces with imported glazed tile and trimmed with cherry and walnut wood. The lighting system originally featured gas chandeliers made of brass which were later converted to electricity.

The most obvious change from the building's original appearance is the coat of white paint applied to the exterior. The large porch wrapping around the east and south sides is not original; it replaces a flat-roofed porch which was much more intricate and ornate in detail. A portion of the porch on the south side has been enclosed. A small addition has been built at the southwest corner. The decorative metalwork formerly located along the ridge lines is gone. The carriage house has been adapted for use as a garage.

The general appearance of the house, except for the color, is much as it was originally.

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

Kansas

COUNTY

Atchison

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER DATE

STATE

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number	all	entries)

- 9. "Beloved Woman Resident Dies," Atchison <u>Daily Globe</u>, Jan. 25, 1937.
 - Genealogical and Biographical Record of Northeastern Kansas (Chicago, The Lewis Publishing Co., 1900), pp. 21, 22.
 - History of the State of Kansas (Chicago, A. T. Andreas, 1883), pp. 380, 381, 390.
 - Ingalls, Sheffield, <u>History of Atchison County</u> (Lawrence, Kan., Standard Publishing Co., 1916), p. 511.